

Illegal shooting behind Russell Park

Slain goose was banded in Georgia

By S. ROBERT POWELL

On June 3, 1983, at 11:05 a.m., Officer Joseph McDonald, Carbondale Police Department, investigated a report that two Canadian geese had been shot on a pond behind Russell Park. A joint investigation by Carbondale Police Chief, Francis X. Dottle, and Sergeant Russell Scavo, and by Pennsylvania Game Warden, Chester Cinamella, and Deputy Game Wardens, John Oswald and David Jones, led to the arrest, on June 22, of two Carbondale men, both of whom were arrested by Sergeant Scavo and issued citations for discharging firearms within the city limits and for violating Pennsylvania game laws.

One of the Canadian geese was wearing a leg band on which was given the following information: "AVISE BIRD BAND, WRITE WASHINGTON DC USA 718-035-14." I wrote, on June 10, to the address given on the bird band, and asked for any information on the goose that had been illegally shot in the Carbondale area on June 3. Enclosed with that letter was a copy of the "Weekly Fire and Police Log" from the NEWS (June 8, 1983, page 3) in which the shooting incident was initially reported, together with the photograph of Patrolman McDonald and Chief Dottle that is shown here.

On September 15, 1983, I received a letter from George M. Jonkel, Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States

Department of the Interior, Laurel, Maryland. Enclosed with Jonkel's letter was a "Certificate of Appreciation," made out to this writer, on which the following information about the goose that was wearing the leg band is reported: the goose was a male that was banded on July 8, 1981, near Cedartown, Georgia; at the time that the bird was banded (by J. Schafnagel of the Georgia Game and Fish Division, 2150 Dawsonville Highway, Gainesville, Georgia 30501), it was at least one year old.

History of Bird Banding

The marking of birds was carried on during the days of the Roman Empire to identify the falcons that belonged to the emperor. Modern bird banding had its beginning with Hans Christian Mortensen, a school teacher of Viborg, Denmark, who, in 1890, began putting metal bands on the legs of teal, pintails, storks, starlings and two or three kinds of hawks. These bands had his name and address inscribed on them. As his banded birds began to appear in many places in Europe, other bird students became interested in bird "ringing," as it is called in Europe. In a short time, bird banding caught on in the United States. Deciding that they could accomplish more if they worked as a group, several ornithologists formed, in 1909, the American Bird Banding Association. Biologists in the Bureau of Biological Survey (now the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife) were convinced that banding had much to tell us about birds, especially about their migration and life span. The Bureau

(and its counterpart north of the border, the Canadian Wildlife Service), therefore, offered to take over the work of the American Bird Banding Association. The offer was accepted and, since 1920, banding of migratory birds in the United States and Canada has been under the joint direction of the federal governments of the two countries.

Anyone who is at least 18 years old and who knows how to identify all of the common birds in their different seasonal plumages may apply for a banding permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service. The applicant must furnish the names of three well-known bird banders or ornithologists who can vouch for his or her fitness as a bird bander. Only those persons who are well qualified and have research projects in mind are issued banding permits.

Authorized banders receive hands-seventeen different sizes of aluminum bands are available-without charge from the Bird Banding Laboratory, as well as the necessary forms for keeping accurate records. When a band is put on a bird's leg, the bander records the number, the kind of bird, its age and sex and the place and date of the banding. Later the bander returns the completed form to the Banding Laboratory, where this information is stored in a computer where it is readily available in case the band is later recovered. Over a million birds are banded every year. Of these, over 100,000 are recovered or reported on to the Bird Banding Laboratory.



OFFICER JOSEPH McDONALD, LEFT, AND CHIEF FRANCIS DOTTLE hold the two Canadian geese that were illegally shot on a pond behind Russell Park on June 3. One of the geese was banded near Cedartown, Georgia, on July 8, 1981. (NEWS File Photo)



BEAUS & BELLES HANDBELL CHOIR of the First United Methodist Church, Carbondale, at the Handbell Festival that was held June 27-29 at Ithaca College. Front row, left to right: Kim Waldsmith, Kim Smith, Darlia Waldsmith, Rhoda Konosky and Jennie Collins. Back row, same order: Joan Cosgrove, Chuck Perry, Deanna Dietz, Sharon Dietz and Fred Dietz. Absent when this photograph was taken are: Ron Bellamy, Robert Vandenberg, Mark Myers and Marguerite Cox. Five handbell choirs, including the Beaus & Belles will perform in the United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 2.

Handbells to ring in Methodist Church

By S. ROBERT POWELL

No musical sound in the world today is more readily recognizable, in every part of the world, than that of the bell. The bell's sound is part of the universal language that is music. But the sound of the bell is not only universal, it is also versatile. Upon the death of a prominent person, for example, bells toll with great solemnity. Conversely, no musical sound is more appropriate for the celebration of a joyous occasion than the ringing of bells. Churches with carillons, chimes, or even single bells, use their bells for hymn playing, Westminster and hour strike, calls to worship, funeral tolls and wedding celebrations.

On Sunday, October 2, at 7:30 p.m., a great many bells, handbells, will be rung in the First United Methodist Church of Carbondale, when the Methodist handbell choir, the Beaus and Belles, under the direction of Mrs. Joan Cosgrove, together with the Carbondale Methodist Youth Ringers and three guest handbell choirs, present a handbell concert, "Bells-a-Ringing." The guest choirs will be the Dunmore Presbyterian Handbell Choir (Mrs. Evelyn Butler, Director), the Moscow Methodist Ringers (Mr. Robert Reynolds, Director), and the Simpson United Methodist Church Choir, Scranton (Miss Marilyn Lewis, Director). Maureen Musari will serve as accompanist and Jim McMyne will serve as the instrumental director. Also on Sunday's program are God's Puppets, a Methodist children's group under the direction of Joan and Ron Bellamy.

"The bells that we ring are made of highly polished brass and we play on 37 bells, or three octaves," Mrs. Cosgrove

explained. We asked Mrs. Cosgrove who the people are who belong to the Beaus and Belles and how they prepare for a bellringing concert, and she stated: "We are a group of fourteen people who enjoy spreading God's Word through the art of bell ringing. The group, which was formed in 1980, gave eight concerts in 1981 and thirteen in 1982. Housewives, carpenters, secretaries, librarians, factory workers, bank tellers and school children make up the group. For three years we have belonged to the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, whose motto is to unite people through a musical art. We practice faithfully for four hours a week. The music we produce is unique because we learn to depend on each other in a unified effort to produce music."

The repertory of the Beaus and

Belles, and of the other handbell choirs that will participate in this Sunday's concert is varied. Among the works that will be performed are: Ring Those Bells, Ming Ling, Pizzicato Bell, Pizzicato Polka, Ring for Joy, Whistle While You Work, Nature's Anthem of Praise, How Great Thou Art, Springs of Living Water, Holy Holy Holy, Joyful Praise, Beside Still Waters. Four works will be performed by the five combined choirs during Sunday's concert: We Gather Together, Visions, Lord I Ring My Praise to Thee, and Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken.

The fourteen members of the Beaus and Belles are: Kim Waldsmith, Kim Smith, Darlia Waldsmith, Rhoda Konosky, Jennie Collins, Joan Cosgrove, Chuck Perry, Deanna Dietz, Sharon Dietz, Fred Dietz, Ron Bellamy, Robert Vandenberg, Mark Myers and Marguerite Cox.

NEWS, 9-28-83, p. 1

Joan Cosgrove supplied the photo, the original of which is very out of focus; the photo was enlarged and so the focus problem is magnified.